

HJR 11 -- Associate Circuit Judges

Co-Sponsors: Holand, Ransdall

This proposed constitutional amendment abolishes the office of associate circuit judge and elevates those judges to circuit judges effective January 1, 2005. Judicial circuits will be limited to two counties unless the contiguous counties of the circuit have a combined population of less than 15,000.

The amendment also establishes the Missouri Judicial Assignment Commission, composed of a Supreme Court judge, an appellate court judge, a circuit judge, a member of the House of Representatives, a member of the Senate, and the State Courts Administrator, each of whom will be appointed for a two-year term. Beginning in 2006 and every two years thereafter, the commission will review and study the assignment of judges and allocation of judicial staff and resources across the state and make recommendations to the General Assembly for the reduction, transfer, reallocation, or other changes in the number and assignment of circuit and associate circuit judges. The recommendations will be deemed enacted unless disapproved by the General Assembly before the next February 1.